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NEWS RELEASE

SOCIOLOGIST, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE EXPERT CLAIRE RENZETTI WILL HELP WEAVE 'TAPESTRY OF FEMALE VOICES' IN WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE AT UD

DAYTON, Ohio — Claire Renzetti, a sociologist and nationally recognized expert and author on domestic violence, will explore women's issues during the University of Dayton's second annual Women's Leadership Conference Friday and Saturday, April 4 and 5, in the Kennedy Union on campus. Renzetti, chair of the sociology department at Saint Joseph's University, will give the keynote address on "Women and Leadership in the 21st Century" during lunch at the conference, titled "A Time to Shine: A Tapestry of Female Voices."

The conference is open to the public, and the registration fee of \$10 includes five conference workshops and a pre-conference networking session as well as refreshments, a light breakfast and lunch. To preregister or for more information, visit the conference Web site at www.udayton.edu/~studev/women or call (937) 229-2229.

The event will begin with a relaxed networking session with a coffeehouse theme from 8 to 11 p.m. Friday, April 4, in the Kennedy Union Pub. The session will begin with *House Angel*, a short play written and directed by UD senior Anne Hilbert, followed by song and dance also performed by students.

Saturday, April 5, will begin with registration at 9 a.m. in the KU lobby, followed by a light breakfast and welcome session at 9:30 a.m. in the second-floor ballroom. Participants will then break out to individual workshops and can choose five of 22 sessions running concurrently through 5 p.m. Topics include "Business Communication Tips," "Putting an End to Defeating Ourselves," "Cultural Story Telling" and "A Guide to Understanding Leadership Styles," among others.

During breaks, participants can purchase books and pick up free materials on a variety of topics pertinent to women, including health, financial planning, domestic violence and more, in a resource area set up in the Kennedy Union Torch Lounge.

"Our major goal is to promote the development and recognition of women in leadership, to initiate conversations about critical issues concerning women in our community and to build a

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sisterhood that transcends race, religion and socioeconomic status,” said Oluyemi Mahoney, assistant director of educational and special programs at the University.

A 1966 Fulbright Scholar who has been active in addressing the problem of hate crimes against women for two decades, Renzetti is also editor of *Violence Against Women*, a monthly international journal. She has published 13 books and numerous chapters, primarily based on her research on various aspects of domestic violence.

Renzetti also made University of Dayton history, becoming the first president’s wife when her husband, Daniel J. Curran, was named the first lay president of the University in 2002.

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For media interviews, contact **Oluyemi Mahoney** at (937) 229-2229 or via e-mail at omahoney@udayton.edu.